Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 IGA-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ABF-01 H-01 /101 R

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P R 290116Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO, EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: FAO POST-HARVEST FOOD LOSSES FUND

REF: BONN 15946

- 1. YOU SHOULD INFORM FRG THAT WE ENVISION NO OVERHEAD CHARGES. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS WITH UNDP NEW YORK AND HAVE TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING. WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH FAO, BUT WE WILL URGE THAT FAO NOT CHARGE ANY OVERHEAD TO THOSE DONORS WHO USE UNDP AS A CHANNEL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE.
- 2. BECAUSE THIS WILL BE A STRAIGHT FINANCIAL TRANSFER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE QUESTION RAISED PARA 2B REFTEL WOULD NOT APPLY. FUNDS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO FAO'S ACCOUNT FROM UNDP. OUR REQUEST TO CONGRESS IS NOT LUMPED WITH OUR REGULAR UNDP REQUEST BUT IS A SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET READING UNDP'S FAO POST-HARVEST FOOD LOSSES PROGRAM.

3. AVAILABILITY OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN FY 1979

MEANS IN FACT THE CONTRIBUTION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER 1978. WE ENVISION THIS AS THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE INITIAL PROPOSED \$20 MILLION AND WOULD HOPE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER DONORS, INCLUDING OPEC COUNTRIES

AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AGENCIES SUCH AS UNDP, WILL HELP FAO TO REACH THE TARGET. FROM EVIDENCE WE HAVE SO FAR SEEN ON FAO PROGRAM PLANNING FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AS OF LATE 1978 SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM.

4. UNDOUBTEDLY THE FRG AND OTHERS MAY VIEW THIS AS A SOMEWHAT CUMBERSOME MEANS OF SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED FAO PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE DO FEEL IT IMPORTANT TO EM-PHASIZE TO FAO. UNDP AND THE OTHER AGENCIES OUR STRONG FEELING THAT LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SUCH AS THIS ORDINARILY SHOULD BE FUNDED OUT OF UNDP'S CENTRAL POOL OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT IF ADEQUATE FUNDS ARE PLEDGED THROUGH THE UNDP CHANNEL TO PHL THE TEMPTATION TO RAID THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT SURPLUS WILL BE NEUTRALIZED. PARENTHETICALLY, GIVEN THE STRONG FEELING OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AGAINST A PROLIFERATION OF SPECIAL FUNDS THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM, THIS IS THE ONLY METHOD WE COULD FOLLOW. IF FAO INSISTS ON USING THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT FUNDS (\$2.5 MILLION IS U.S. SHARE OF THE \$10 MILLION PROPOSED TO BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATHER THAN \$3 MILLION THROUGH UNDP, WE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. FUNDING OF PHL PROGRAM. CHRISTOPHER

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